IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 15 to 24 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method of registering data received from an external device via a network, comprising the steps of:

setting an upper limit of an amount of data to be registered in a predetermined storage area;

receiving data from an external device via a network;

registering the received data into the predetermined storage area;

comparing ~~an amount of the received data with a difference amount, which is the difference between~~ an amount of data ~~which has already been~~ registered in the predetermined storage area and the upper limit ~~of an amount of data~~; and

controlling to reject a request of editing data ~~in a~~ from among the request of editing data and a request of deleting data, when the amount of the ~~received~~ data registered in the predetermined storage area is larger than the ~~difference amount as a result of the comparison~~ upper limit in said comparing step.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein said controlling step controls so that a button for ~~indicating to edit~~ the requesting of editing data is not selected in the external device.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, further comprising a step of deleting data in ~~the~~ chronological order from ~~the oldest~~ data first registered in the predetermined storage area, so that ~~the~~ a difference amount, which is the difference between the amount of the data registered in the predetermined storage area and the upper limit, is equal to or larger than the amount of the received data.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

accepting an access to ~~the~~ data which has already been registered in the predetermined storage area; and

deleting data in ~~the~~ chronological order from the ~~oldest~~ data registered in the predetermined storage area but not accessed for a longest period, so that ~~the~~ a difference amount, which is the difference between the amount of the data registered in the predetermined storage area and the upper limit, is equal to or larger than the amount of the received data.

19. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus for registering data received from an external device via a network, comprising:

a setting unit adapted to set an upper limit of an amount of data to be registered in a predetermined storage area;

a receiving unit adapted to receive data from an external device via a network;

a registering unit adapted to register the received data into the predetermined storage area;

a comparing unit adapted to compare ~~an amount of the received data with a difference amount, which is the difference between~~ an amount of data ~~which has already been~~ registered in the predetermined storage area and the upper limit ~~of an amount of data~~; and

a controlling unit adapted to control to reject a request of editing data ~~in a~~ from among the request of editing data and a request of deleting data, when the amount of the ~~received~~ data registered in the predetermined storage area is larger than the upper limit ~~difference amount as a result of the comparison~~ by said comparing unit.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said controlling unit controls so that a button for ~~indicating to edit~~ the requesting of editing data is not selected in the external device.

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising a deleting unit adapted to delete data in ~~the~~ chronological order from ~~the oldest~~ data first registered in the predetermined storage area, so that ~~the~~ a difference amount, which is the difference between the amount of the data registered in the predetermined storage area and the upper limit, is equal to or larger than the amount of the received data.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

an accepting unit adapted to accept an access to ~~the~~ data which has already been registered in the predetermined storage area; and

a deleting unit adapted to delete data in ~~the~~ chronological order from ~~the oldest~~ data registered in the predetermined storage area but not accessed for a longest period, so that ~~the~~ a difference amount, which is the difference between the amount of the data registered in the predetermined storage area and the upper limit, is equal to or larger than the amount of the received data.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium for storing a program executing a method of registering data received from an external device via a network, said program comprising the steps of:

setting an upper limit of an amount of data to be registered in a predetermined storage area;

receiving data from an external device via a network;

registering the received data into the predetermined storage area;

comparing ~~an amount of the received data with a difference amount, which is the difference between~~ an amount of data ~~which has already been~~ registered in the predetermined storage area and the upper limit ~~of an amount of data~~; and

controlling to reject a request of editing data ~~in a~~ from among the request of editing data and a request of deleting data, when the amount of the ~~received~~ data registered in the predetermined storage area is larger than the ~~difference amount as a result of the comparison~~ upper limit in said comparing step.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer-executable program stored in a computer-readable storage medium, the program for registering data received from an external device via a network, comprising the steps of:

setting an upper limit of an amount of data to be registered in a predetermined storage area;

receiving data from an external device via a network;

registering the received data into the predetermined storage area;

comparing ~~an amount of the received data with a difference amount, which is the difference between~~ an amount of data ~~which has already been~~ registered in the predetermined storage area and the upper limit ~~of an amount of data~~; and

controlling to reject a request of editing data ~~in a~~ from among the request of editing data and a request of deleting data, when the amount of the ~~received~~ data registered in the predetermined storage area is larger than the ~~difference amount as a result of the comparison~~ upper limit in said comparing step.

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated December 13, 2006. Claims 15 to 24 are pending in the application. Claims 15 to 24 have been amended, and Claims 15, 19, 23 and 24 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 15, 19, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,813,684 (Sakaguchi); and Claims 16 to 18 and 20 to 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sakaguchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,532,474 (Iwamoto). Reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns registering data received from an external device via a network. An upper limit of an amount of data to be registered is setn in a predetermined storage area. Data from an external device is received via a network. The received data is registered into the predetermined storage area. An amount of data registered in the predetermined storage area and the upper limit is compared. The rejection of a request of editing data from among the request of editing data and a request of deleting data is controlled, when the compared amount of the data registered in the predetermined storage area is larger than the upper limit.

Thus, among its many features, the present invention provides for (i) comparing an amount of data registered in the predetermined storage area and the upper limit, and (ii) controlling to reject a request of editing data from among the request of editing data and a request of deleting data, when the compared amount of the data registered in the predetermined storage area is larger than the upper limit.

By virtue of the foregoing, after a user has registered image data exceeding an upper limit, operations other than that of deleting are not allowed. Thus, the deletion of unused data is seen to be accelerated, a load against the capacity of the disk is seen to be reduced.

For example, Figure 11 and page 28, line 32 to page 23, line 11 of the specification describes a representative embodiment corresponding to the claimed comparing and controlling of the present invention. More particularly, steps S1110-S1111 and the description at page 31, lines 11 to 18 of the specification are seen to correspond with the claimed comparing, and step S1112 and the description at page 31, line 19 to page 32, line 11 are seen to correspond with the claimed controlling. Of course, it should be noted that the scope of the claims is not limited to this representative embodiment and/or the details shown at these cited portions.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claims 15, 19, 23 and 24 are respectively directed to a method, an apparatus, a computer-readable storage medium and a computer-executable program.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the invention of the subject application. In particular, Sakaguchi and Iwamoto are not seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of (i) comparing an amount of data registered in the predetermined storage area and the upper limit, and (ii) controlling to reject a request of editing data from among the request of editing data and a request of deleting data, when the compared amount of the data registered in the predetermined storage area is larger than the upper limit.

As understood by Applicants, Sakaguchi discloses a system in which a disk controller 102 checks segments of data for the presence of any empty segment in a cache memory 103 at one of steps 705-707, and selects at step 709 or 710 and replaces at step 711 data stored in the cache memory 103 with new data if no unoccupied space. See Sakaguchi, Figure 7; and column 6, lines 42 to 67.

As such, Sakaguchi is seen to check, before storing new data into cache memory 103, whether or not there is unoccupied space therein. However, Sakaguchi is not seen to disclose or suggest that, after registering data into a storage area, the amount of registered data is larger than an upper limit of the storage area.

Accordingly, Sakaguchi is not seen to disclose or suggest (i) comparing an amount of data registered in the predetermined storage area and the upper limit, and (ii) controlling to reject a request of editing data from among the request of editing data and a request of deleting data, when the compared amount of the data registered in the predetermined storage area is larger than the upper limit. In addition, Sakaguchi is not seen to suggest the attendant benefits provided by such comparing and controlling.

Iwamoto has also been reviewed and is not seen to compensate for the deficiencies of Sakaguchi.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 15, 19, 23 and 24 as amended are believed to be allowable over the applied references.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the

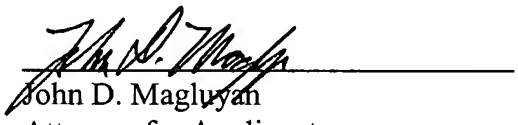
invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Regarding a formal matter, it is respectfully requested for the Examiner to acknowledge receipt of the Japanese priority application filed in this case on February 12, 2004.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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